

THE LATEST FROM LUXEMBOURG

B. SINCE 2013, PURSUING MORE INCLUSIVE, PARTICIPATORY, DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

- *Referendums on constitutional reform*
- *The 2013-2018 government's flagship proposal*
- Participatory budgets (City of Luxembourg)
- Outcome: suboptimal
- Parliamentary e-petitions (www.chd.lu)
- Outcome: largely successful
- Online submission platform for government (www.vosidees.lu)
- Outcome: low participation
- Broad consultation to reform the "Programme directeur d'aménagement du territoire" (notrefutureterritoire.lu)
- Status: ongoing
- Local level citizen consultations
- E.g. 11 city halls on the UNESCO label "Man and Biosphere"

D. OCTOBER 2015 TO JULY 2016: POST-REFERENDUM CONSULTATIONS

- July-October 2015: New parliament webpage for citizens to share proposals and suggestions (www.ärvirschléi.lu).
- Outcome:
 - Limited participation (139 people)
 - Uptake of proposals by parliamentary commission
 - Public hearing with 36 citizens (July 2016)
 - Elaboration of several constitutional amendments
- July 2016: two-day minipublic reviewing proposed constitutional reform in its entirety.
- Two objectives:
 - a. Inform policymakers about citizens' understanding-levels and approval of constitutional reform.
 - b. Make decision-makers aware of new constitutional proposals reaching consensus among citizens.

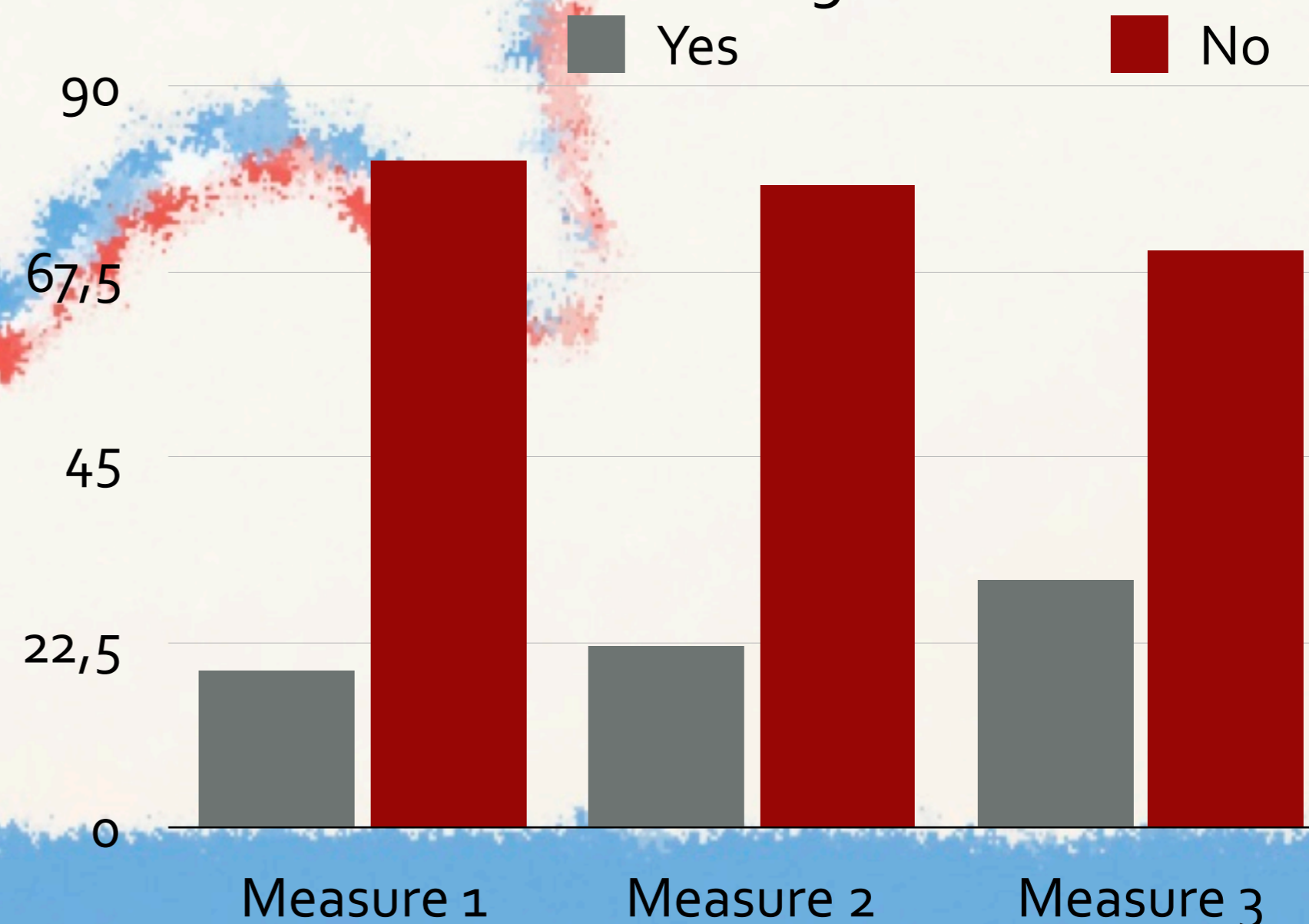
A. PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY UNDER A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY

- Referendums are permitted but rare (5 referendums since 1900).
- Parliamentarians can revise constitution (qualified majority voting).
- Political parties, party platforms and coalition governments loom large in political process.
- Governance is three-level (local, national and European)
- Innovation is concentrated at the national level.

C. JUNE 2015 CONSULTATIVE REFERENDUM ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

- Reform and referendum initiated by national government (2013 governmental coalition program and 2014 special law).
- Referendum proposals:
 - 1) Lowering the voting age to 16.
 - 2) Extending foreigners voting rights for national elections.
 - 3) Setting term limits for ministerial mandates.
 - 4) Creating stronger church-state separation (independently settled prior to referendum).
- Pre-referendum one-day citizens' consultation (May 2014 at the University of Luxembourg).
- Three objectives:
 - a. Measure public opinion and knowledge-level on referendum measures.
 - b. Test citizens' consultation in referendum context.
 - c. Propose a method to involve and inform citizens. (favoured proposal: Oregon Citizens' Initiative Review)
- Referendum outcome: All three measures failed (see Chart 1).
- A missed opportunity?

Chart 1 - 2015 Referendum Results



E. SINCE JULY 2016, NO CLEAR STRATEGY AT NATIONAL LEVEL

- 2018 national elections have maintained status quo.
- A second binding referendum on the revised constitution is foreseen in 2019.
- The government is planning to explore alternative paths better to inform and involve citizens.
- Only time will tell what the future holds for Luxembourg's constitutional reform.